

## **NGPRL Scientist Presents Soil Biology Information to Farmers from No Till on the Plains**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Kristine Nichols (USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND) presented information on soil biology and soil quality to a group of about 25 farmers from Kansas and Oklahoma as part of a “Points North” bus tour for No Till On The Plains Inc., ‘a non-profit educational organization providing information to farmers on adopting no-till and other sustainable production methods.’ Tour participants visited 5 states (KS, CO, SD, ND, and NE) in 5 days ‘to get practical and relevant no-till information from other farmers and no-till experts.’ At Gabe Brown’s farm near Bismarck, ND, Nichols demonstrated how increasing soil organic matter and soil structure using no till and diverse cropping systems may improve water infiltration, water holding capacity, and nutrient cycling. These topics addressed the organization’s mission to demonstrate how ‘adopting no-till and good agronomy (good biology) has the potential to greatly improve farmers' efficiency and profitability’ and many other societal, ‘such as greatly reduced soil erosion of cropland, less sedimentation of rivers and lakes, better wildlife habitat in fields, and the sequestering of atmospheric carbon dioxide in soil organic matter.’